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Report Highlights:

This is an unofficial translation of Japan's proposed establishment of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for the veterinary drug ivermectin in foods. The notification was made by Japan on June 29, 2007.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

Executive Summary

On June 29, 2007 the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) announced proposed changes to the MRLs for Dramectin to the WTO/SPS committee. The following is an unofficial translation of the notification that is open for comment within 60 days of circulation by the WTO Secretariat.

Establishment of Standards for the Veterinary Drugs Dramectin in Food**Purpose**

This activity is to develop specifications and standards for foods. Under the provisions of Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the Food Sanitation Law, the Minister of Health, Labour, and Welfare may establish residue standards (maximum residue limits: MRLs) for pesticides, feed additives, and veterinary drugs (hereafter referred to as "agricultural chemicals") that may remain in foods. Any food for which standards are established pursuant to the provisions is not permitted to be marketed unless such food complies with the established standards. On May 29, 2006 the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare introduced the positive list system for agricultural chemicals in food. Basically, all foods distributed in the Japanese marketplace are subject to regulation based on the system. Note: The positive list system was established based on the 2003 amendment of the Food Sanitation Law. The system aims to prohibit the distribution of any food in the Japanese market place if it contains agricultural chemicals at amounts exceeding certain levels specified under the Law.

Outline of the activity**<Veterinary drugs >**

Dramectin (antiparasitic) The chemical is permitted for use in Japan. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has reassessed a drug product whose effective ingredient is Dramectin. This is on the basis of the legal requirement stating that veterinary drugs, once approved, must be reassessed every six years. In response to MAFF's assessment, the MHLW has reviewed the existing MRLs for the substance. The MRLs for these chemicals appear in the Provisional MRLs List (Item 7 of Section A "General Compositional Standard for Food," Part 1 "Food" in the Specifications and Standards for Food, Food Additives, Etc). They have been modified as necessary. Finalized MRLs will be placed in the MRLs List in Item 6, and the MRLs currently placed in Item 7 will be deleted. For draft MRLs, see Attachment 2-1 for Difloxacin and Attachment 2-2 for Dramectin. [MHLW explained that for some commodities Codex data was used and for some JECFA data was used.

Dramectin (antiparasitic)

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Commodity	Draft MRL (ppm)	Current MRL (ppm)
Cattle, muscle	0.01	0.01
Pig, muscle	0.01	0.005
Terrestrial mammals other than above, muscle	0.01	0.01
Cattle, fat	0.15	0.15
Pig, fat	0.15	0.15
Terrestrial mammals other than above, fat	0.02	0.1
Cattle, liver	0.1	0.1
Pig, liver	0.1	0.1
Terrestrial mammals other than above, liver	0.02	0.05
Cattle, kidney	0.03	0.03
Pig, kidney	0.03	0.03
Terrestrial mammals other than above, kidney	0.02	0.04
Cattle, edible offal*	0.1	0.03
Pig, edible offal	0.1	0.03
Terrestrial mammals other than above, edible offal	0.02	0.05
Milk	0.015	0.02
Chicken, muscle		0.005
Poultry other than above, muscle		0.005
Chicken, fat		0.005
Poultry other than above, fat		0.005
Chicken, liver		0.005
Poultry other than above, liver		0.005
Chicken, kidney		0.005
Poultry other than above, kidney		0.005
Chicken, edible offal		0.005
Poultry other than above, edible offal		0.005
Chicken, egg		0.005
Poultry other than above, egg		0.005
Salmoniformes		0.005
Anguilliformes		0.005
Perciformes		0.005
Fish other than above		0.005
Shelled molluscs		0.005
Crustaceans		0.005
Aquatic animals other than above		0.005
Honey		0.005

* "Edible offal" refers to all edible parts, except muscle, fat, liver, and kidney.